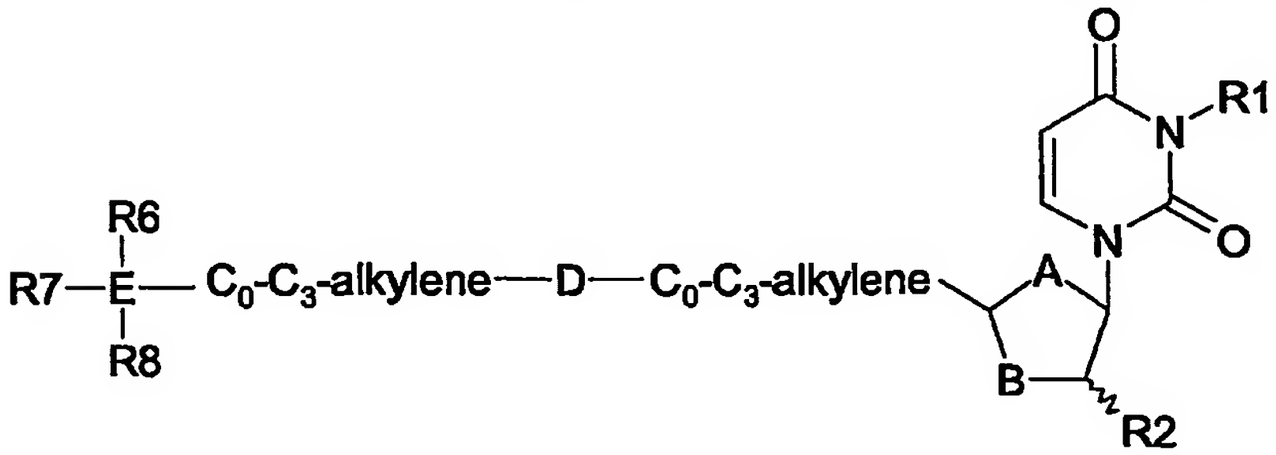
CLAIMS

1. Use of a compound of formula I', in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of plasmodium infections in mammals, including man.



I'

where

A is O, S or CH_2;

B is O, S or CHR^3;

R^1 is H, C_1-C_5 alkyl, C_2-C_5 alkenyl, C_2-C_5 alkynyl or a 5 or 6 membered, saturated or unsaturated ring containing 0 to 3 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S, the alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or ring being independently optionally substituted with R^4;

R^2 is H, F;

R^3 is H, F, OH, NH_2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester, amide or ether thereof; or R^2 and R^3 together form a chemical bond;

D is –NHCO-, -CONH-, -O-, -C(=O)-, -CH=CH, -C≡C-, -NR^5-;

R^4 is independently selected from hydrogen, halo, cyano, amino, nitro, carboxy, carbamoyl, hydroxy, oxo, C_1-C_5 alkyl, C_1-C_5 haloalkyl, C_1-C_5 alkyloxy, C_1-C_5 alkanoyl, C_1-C_5 alkanoyloxy, C_1-C_5 alkylthio, -N(C_0-C_3-alkyl)$_2$, hydroxymethyl, aminomethyl, carboxymethyl; -SO_nN(C_0-C_3-alkyl), -$SO_n$$C_1$-$C_5$-alkyl, where n is 1 or 2;

R^5 is H, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkanoyl;

E is Si or C;

R^6, R^7 and R^8 are independently selected from C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_8 alkenyl, C_2-C_8 alkynyl, or a stable monocyclic, bicyclic or tricyclic ring system which is saturated or unsaturated in which each ring has 0 to 3 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S;

R^6, R^7 and R^8 are independently optionally substituted with R^4;

with the proviso that if R^3 is H, OH, F, NH_2 or a bond, then at least one of R^6, R^7 and/or R^8 comprises an unsaturated ring;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. Use according to claim 1, wherein A is -O- and B is -CHR^3-, or A is -O- and B is -S-.

3. Use according to claim 1, wherein R^2 and R^3 form a chemical bond.

4. Use according to claim 1, wherein R^3 is OH, NH_2 or F.

5. Use according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is H.

6. Use according to claim 1, wherein C_0-C_3-alkylene-D-C_0-C_3-alkylene is oxymethylene, oxyethylene or oxypropylene.

7. Use according to claim 1, wherein C_0-C_3-alkylene-D-C_0-C_3-alkylene is aminomethylene, aminoethylene or aminopropylene.

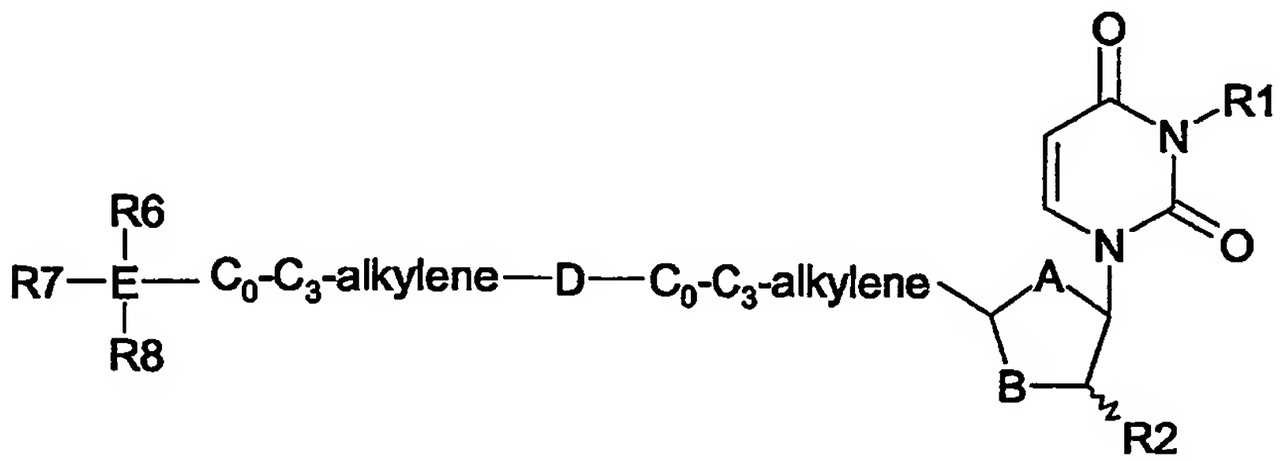
8. Use according to claim 1, wherein at least two of R^6, R^7 and R^8 have an aromatic nature.

9. Use according to claim 1, wherein R^6 is optionally substituted phenyl.

10. Use according to claim 9, wherein R^8 is optionally substituted phenyl or pyridyl.

11. Use according to claim 1, wherein E is C.

12. A compound of the formula I



I

where

A is O, S or CH_2;

B is O, S or CHR^3;

R^1 is H, C_1-C_5 alkyl, C_2-C_5 alkenyl, C_2-C_5 alkynyl or a 5 or 6 membered, saturated or unsaturated ring containing 0 to 3 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S, the alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or ring being independently optionally substituted with R^4;

R^2 is H, F;

R^3 is H, F, OH, NH_2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester, amide or ether thereof; or

R^2 and R^3 together form a chemical bond;

D is 0NHCO-, -CONH-, -O-, -C(=O)-, -CH=CH, -C≡C-, -NR^5-;

R^4 is independently selected from hydrogen, halo, cyano, amino, nitro, carboxy, carbamoyl, hydroxy, oxo, C_1-C_5 alkyl, C_1-C_5 haloalkyl, C_1-C_5 alkyloxy, C_1-C_5 alkanoyl, C_1-C_5 alkanoyloxy, C_1-C_5 alkylthio, -$N(C_0$-C_3-alkyl$)_2$, hydroxymethyl, aminomethyl, carboxymethyl; -$SO_nN(C_0$-C_3-alkyl), -SO_nC_1-C_5-alkyl, where n is 1 or 2;

R^5 is H, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkanoyl;

E is Si or C;

R^6 and R^7 are independently a stable monocyclic, bicyclic or tricyclic ring system which has an aromatic nature and wherein each ring has 0 to 3 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S;

R^8 is C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_8 alkenyl, C_2-C_8 alkynyl, or a stable monocyclic, bicyclic or tricyclic ring system which is saturated or unsaturated and in which each ring has 0 to 3 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S;

R^6, R^7 and R^8 are independently optionally substituted with R^4;

with the proviso that if the group C_0-C_3alkyl-D-C_0-C_3 alkyl is -O-CH_2-, then the group E(R6)(R7)(R8) is not CPh_3 (trityl), methoxylated trityl or tert.butyldiphenylsilyl;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

13. A compound according to claim 12, wherein A is -O- and B is -CHR^3-, or A is -O and B is -S-.

14. A compound according to claim 12, wherein R^2 and R^3 form a chemical bond.

15. A compound according to claim 12, wherein R^3 is OH, NH_2 or F.

16. A compound according to claim 12, wherein R^1 is H.

17. A compound according to claim 12, wherein C_0-C_3-alkylene-D-C_0-C_3-alkylene is oxymethylene, oxyethylene or oxypropylene.

18. A compound according to claim 12, wherein C_0-C_3-alkylene-D-C_0-C_3-alkylene is aminomethylene, aminoethylene or aminopropylene.

19. A compound according to claim 12, wherein R^6 is optionally substituted phenyl.

20. A compound according to claim 19 wherein R^7 is optionally substituted phenyl or pyridyl.

21. A compound according to claim 12 wherein E is C.

22. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as defined in any of claims 12-21 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent therefor.

23. Use of a compound as defined in any of claims 12-21 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of parasite infections in mammals, including man.

24. Use according to claim 23, wherein the parasite is a trypanosome or Leishmania species.